

Quarterly Journal of the Socialist Party of Canada

Socialist Fulcrum

*For a Wageless World Of Voluntary Co-operation And Free Access
Through Common Ownership and Democratic Control*

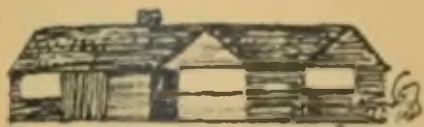
1980

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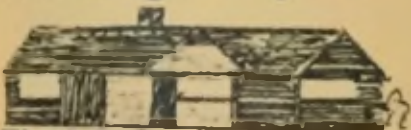
VOLUNTEER
PRODUCTION

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THOSE HIGH MORTGAGE RATES



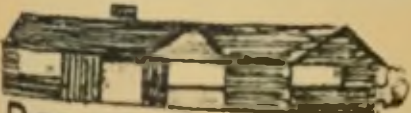
The wages system means -



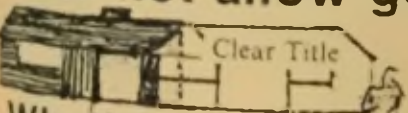
That labor power is a commodity



The value of labor power -



Does not allow general home ownership



Whether interest is high or low



TERRY FOX AND CHARITY CANCER RESEARCH
POLISH WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST THE "WORKERS" STATE
RACISM THE TEAMSTER'S CONVENTION

WHERE WE STAND

What socialism means

Socialism is a system of society where the means of production will be community owned, democratically controlled and used to produce wealth solely to satisfy human needs. When we describe the essential features of such a society you will see why we say that socialism has not been established anywhere (nor, in fact, could it be established in just one place; it must be worldwide).

What, then, are the essential features of socialism? First, the land, industry, transport and communications will have become the common property of the whole community. This means that classes will have been abolished, everyone having an equal say in how the means of production are used. There will no longer be a propertied employing class, nor a propertyless working class. Wages will not be paid nor received as nobody will be in a position either to buy or to sell a human being's ability to work. There will simply be people, free men and women, co-operating to produce what they need.

Second, socialism will be a completely democratic society. The limited political democracy of today will be expanded into a full social democracy. All aspects of society, including the production and distribution of wealth will be subject to democratic social control. The coercive state machine and government over people of class society — with the armed forces and police, the judges and gauriers — will be replaced by the simple democratic administration of social affairs. Those chosen by society to carry out administrative functions on its behalf will not be in any special privileged position. They will not have at their command any means of coercing people. Nor will they be materially better off than anyone else since, as we shall see next, in socialism everybody will have free access to the wealth they need to live and enjoy life.

Third, wealth will be produced solely and directly for human use. It will not be produced for sale, but for people to take according to their needs. Goods will not be priced, nor will people's consumption be limited by the amount of

money they have. There will in fact be no need for money in a socialist society, as the principle "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" will apply.

Free distribution of wealth is now possible because modern industry and agriculture can turn out an abundance of the things people need. A world of plenty is now possible. There is no need for any man, woman or child in any part of the world to go hungry, be badly clothed or live in slums. The technical problem of producing plenty for all has been solved for a long time. The problem now is that the present social system, capitalism, which exists all over the world (including Russia, China, Cuba, Yugoslavia . . .) places a fetter on production because it operates, and must operate, according to the rule of "no profit, no production." What the world suffers from today is not overpopulation, but the chronic underproduction that is built into capitalism. Not only does world capitalism hold back production, but it also misuses and wastes the resources of the world. Think of the waste involved in training and equipping armed forces and of the destruction of wars. Think of the waste of commerce and finance — of banks, insurance companies, salesmen, ticket collectors, accountants, economists, cashiers. Indeed, it is probably true to say that only a minority of the world's population is actually engaged in producing useful things. Then, of course there is the deliberate destruction of wealth that is carried out every year in order to maintain prices and profits: the bonfires of coffee and cocoa, the pouring of milk down coal mines, the dumping of vegetables in rivers, the feeding of butter to pigs.

Once you take account of this artificial scarcity and organised waste of capitalism, you realise that socialism (where people will cooperate freely to produce an abundance of wealth from which they can take freely according to their needs) is not only possible but is also the only solution to humanity's current problems.

Socialist Standard May 1980

SOCIALIST FULCRUM.
Journal of the Socialist Party of
Canada

Vol. 13, No. 3

Explaining why the basic relationship of the present social system prevents a life worthwhile for the wage-working majority.

Pope John Paul in Brazil

Watts Revisited

Polish Workers Strike against the
"Workers' " State

Those High Interest Rates

Terry Fox and Charity Cancer Research

POPE PAUL IN BRAZIL

Ever since the Spanish conquest of the Aztec civilization by Cortez and that of the Inca by Pizarro, the vast continent of Central and South America, almost totally has been aggressively Catholic in its religion. And yet after these past five centuries of uninterrupted Christian rule and inspiration, Pope John Paul has been obliged to make repeated savage attacks upon the ruling class there, for its centuries old in-humanities. From Rio De Janeiro comes this report: "Sao Paulo was the scene in April of a bitter strike by nearly 200,000 metal workers which further strained the already difficult relations between the Church and the State." — (4th July 1980) (1) "Here too was the scene of an unsuccessful Church backed strike of metal workers in which union leaders were jailed and ousted from their posts by the Government..." Says Pope John "anyone who reflects upon the realities of Latin America has to conclude that the achievement of justice faces a clear dilemma" — (8th July 1980) (2).

"Justice will either be achieved through thorough going brave reforms on principles which respect man's dignity or it will be achieved — without lasting results or benefits for mankind — by the forces of violence."

"Each one of you must feel challenged by this dilemma," he told Brazilian decision makers, (Industrialists, Businessmen, Politicians, Landowners, and Educators) in a major address — (8th July 1980) (2) He earlier had this to say: "The Church proclaims and supports the rights of the workers because man and his dignity is at stake" — "An exclusive economic logic, deprived by crass materialism, has invaded all fields of human existence, damaging the environment, threatening families, and destroying all respect for the human person" — (5th July 1980) (3)

POPE JOHN PAUL IN EASTERN EUROPE

The Pope in Brazil is using the same sentiments and language as he does when attacking so-called Communist countries. What is the common factor between these two widely spaced, geographically speaking, countries: one that is centuries old in the Catholic faith and the other only since the 1940-50 decade has come under allegedly Marx-

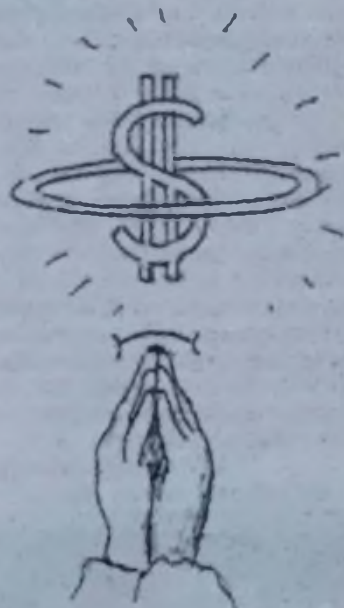
Marx answers this question from nearly 150 years ago. He tells us ("Where the capitalist mode of production prevails") "It goes without saying that the *proletarian* i.e. the men who, being without capital and rent, lives purely by labor, — is considered by political economy only as a *worker*. Political economy can only therefore advance the proposition that the proletarian, the same as any horse, must get as much as will enable him to work. It does not consider him when he is not working, as a human being, but leaves such consideration to criminal law, to doctors, to religion, to the statistical tables, to politics and to the workhouse beadle, — political economy knows the worker only as a working animal — as a beast reduced to the strictest bodily needs: (Marx's own stress) Pages 30-31, (4) "The lowest and only necessary wage rate is that providing for the subsistence of the worker for the duration of his work and as much more as is necessary for him to support a family and for the race of laborers not to die out. The ordinary wage — is the lowest compatible with common humanity (that is a cattle-like existence." P. 22, 44 "Eventually, however this, (expansion of capital), must sooner or later reach its peak. What is the workers' position now (1980)? — The surplus would have to die.

"Thus in a declining state of society — increasing misery of the worker, in an advancing state — misery with complications; and in a fully developed state of society — static misery" Pages 26-27 (4) Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts 1844 Marx, Moscow ed. 1956

The common factor then between these two apparently differing ideologies of the Communist Block and Brazil is that the working class, (as all over the world), are wage laborers subject to laws of buying and selling and in perpetual conflict as above briefly outlined.

Since Marx wrote this, many Popes have come and gone. Each one of them has firmly agreed with political economy, i.e. that the reward for labor should be the lowest level possible for self perpetuation. Each Pope too has used to the utmost his influence and power in condemning Marx for his audacity in drawing attention to the effects of such systematic class domi-

nated inhumanity, (as now the Pope is doing and in much the same terms that are scattered throughout Marx's 1844 manuscript.) Further scorn was poured on Marx's analysis as to why this is so. Marx's urging for the abolition of the wages form of slavery and replacing it with scientific socialism as the only means of abolishing (not merely relieving), increasing relative and absolute poverty (which the Pope dare not do), always brought down on Marx the utmost condemnation for such would be the end of (capitalist) world philosophy, property and ethics.



Pope John Paul is no doubt aware of the Catholic Interpretation of History. He surely is acutely aware of the breaking up of the unbreakable Holy Catholic empire being just as modern a possibility as during the days of King Henry VIII of England and of Martin Luther of Germany. It is possible for the land-lord class of Brazil to organize a pro-landlord section of the Brazilian R.C. Bishops, Cardinals etc. to form a national religion to oppose Pope John Paul and to block his interfering with the sacred rights of private property. These "rights" have been so fiercely, so piously and so successfully upheld by a long line of Popes and by Pope John Paul himself. He could easily start up a ruling class reaction where begins a scolding and ridiculing of the Pope to his own precarious area. Ready his only weapon is moral indignation. What traditional alternative does he offer?

In Brazil, the population of proletarians are not as yet conditioned to mod-

POPE JOHN PAUL IN BRAZIL

ern capitalism: this is evident by their belief in Pope John Paul. So even if he was willing the Pope wouldn't "lead" them out of one form of society and into the next higher phase and of which they have no understanding nor wish to change and against the prevailing ideology to which they have been conditioned for centuries, and which, further, these Brazilians have felt no basic need to challenge.

Yet it must be admitted some of the Pope's actual statements above quoted are correct. There is an inevitable and urgent need for the working class of Latin America to have unhindered freedom to develop along its own lines of organic growth, as the more highly developed capitalist countries have found. Even when this has been given, freedom within capitalism is very much of a relative feature compared with the overt and covert systems for controlling freedom. Even on this the Pope is merely paraphrasing Marx when the latter warns "To say nothing of high motives the present ruling class will find it to its own interest to sweep away all legally removable hindrances that interfere with the free development of the working class." Preface to 1st German ed of "Capital," 1867.

July 1980, C. Peter Furey
S.P. of N.Z.

TRADE
UNIONS

A SOCIALIST ANALYSIS
OF THE USES AND
LIMITATIONS OF
TRADE UNIONS
AND THE NEED FOR
REVOLUTIONARY
POLITICAL ACTION
FOR

SOCIALISM

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Capitalist Politics

THE TEAMSTER'S CONVENTION

It was the second biennial of the Canadian Conference of Teamsters, in Vancouver in July. It was more of a circus.

Liberal Senator Ed Lawson, Canadian director and international vice-president, said that the Teamsters convene "with class." In their political leanings, apparently the teamsters favor leaders who are openly capitalist, as opposed to those who masquerade as friends of the workers.

It wouldn't do for common people such as Pierre Trudeau, Premier Bill Bennett of B.C., or Vancouver Mayor Jack Volrich to have to thumb their way from the airport to the convention, in case they couldn't afford a taxi. So these arriving guest speakers were chauffeured from the airport in a limousine. Except for Trudeau, who couldn't make it. Another old buddy of Lawson's, Liberal Senator Ray Perrault, obliged.

As additional proof that Teamster meetings have class, Lawson said that Premier Bennett, (who was given a standing ovation after his speech and who has never been short of loose change), has never stayed in the Bayshore Inn's International Suite, which was Lawson's \$450.00 a night home for the week.

Allegiance to the politics of the mighty includes religion. So, for the opening prayer, another of Lawson's old friends, Arch Bishop James Carney was called in.

Patriotism to the national capitalist class as a whole of course was included in the package. And Lawson never runs out of old friends who are involved in running this exploitative system. For the necessary ceremony, Richard Loney, who belts out "O Canada" at the Vancouver Canucks hockey games, filled the bill.

According to this union manipulator, first class also means tolerating no opposition from teamster members of a lower order, or political viewpoints from other sections of the status quo. "That means no unwanted interruptions, or unexpected guests, which accounts for the dozen burly Teamsters packing walkie-talkies and patrolling convention hallways..." (Victoria Times, 30 July 1980).

Lawson explained — "We always run a tight ship at our conference. What we don't want is someone using the conference for political purposes." (!)

Brezhnev would have nodded in approval.

A dissident group of Teamsters For A Democratic Union, being merely members of the union, and not allowed inside to participate in the affairs of their organization, had to picket at the front entrance.

Their biggest beef was the huge salaries their shepherds receive, which are depleting the union's funds. Leaders' salaries they say, range from \$100,000 to \$295,000 annually. Lawson's "compensation" was reported to be \$180,000. Lawson was appointed to another 4 year term as superior to the 90,000 member Canadian Conference of Teamsters. In this case "first" class can well mean loyalty to the class that monopolizes the means of life and condemns the second class to life sentences of expanding capital.

The foregoing spokesmen for the employing class undoubtedly extolled unionism in their addresses to the Teamster delegates. This is not surprising, because while individually employers try to depress wages in favor of higher profits, the employing class as a whole would not want the class it lives off to sink to industrial serfdom, unable to produce profits efficiently. This is the gist of promoting capitalist ideas among unionists.

Along with leftist parties offering to patch capitalism with proposals first made by Conservatives and Liberals 60 to 70 years ago.

The members can tend to equate the economic struggle with progress when in reality all they accomplish is parity of money wages with the upkeep of their productive abilities. Industrial struggle plus belief in tinkering with existing society would tend to steer workers away from serious investigation of the social structure. Encouraging them to identify their interests with those of their exploiters: leaving the political arena solely to the left-centre-right parties of the owners of the means of life.

So while being necessary, even if their activity was more democratic, unionism is a matter of treading water to keep one's nose above it. Unions are no lifeboat.

The answer lies in more knowledge of that political action for capitalism can be withdrawn and channelled toward ending this system.



TERRY FOX AND CHARITY CANCER RESEARCH

machinery that they cause cellular death; in small amounts they let cells live but, by interfering with subcellular mechanisms, cause cancer. (Victoria Times, 14/1/77).

Terry Fox had seen the patients in the cancer ward where he lost his right leg to the dreaded malady two years ago. It spread to his lungs and stopped his cross country marathon of hope at about the half way point. But, as he said, during the Telethon to raise more funds in his name, lots of other people were worse off than he was.

The search for a preventative cause or cure for cancer is not a high priority of the wages, money society. By comparison, protecting profitable trade routes, sources of raw materials and strategic areas is. Five years ago the Canadian Cancer Society's aim for charitable donations for the year was \$12 million. This was less than one sixth of the amount the rich class of the U.S. shelled out voluntarily through their state to pay for one of their new B-1 nuclear bombers, which could destroy far more efficiently than its old B52 predecessor could, which now rots with hundreds of its kind in a field in Arizona. (Time 6/1/75). Also during that period, the \$7 billion dollar ABM was declared obsolete by the U.S. House of Representatives one day after it became operational. It is now mothballed. (Victoria Times, 6/10/75).

About \$25 million is now spent annually on cancer research in Canada which compares not very favorably with "defence" spending of over \$11 billion every day. Every country says it is "defending" itself, including Iraq at the present time, on Iranian territory. The health of the troops and airmen of both sides is a secondary consideration. Of primary concern is the control of the Shatt-al-Arab estuary, of profitable refineries, oil and Middle East influence.

These are aspects of the acquisitive society — the owning minority doing the acquiring. The useful majority have to suffer the consequences of their support of this obsolete social arrangement. This support is affected though a life time of conditioning for it, which results in attitudes completely at variance with reality. They include accep-

tance of the bizarre relationship between the arms expenditure for legal murder vs. the niggardly tinkering with feared diseases just related. All in the name of social good.

They include minor items such as the photo of 48 year old Dorothy Reid of Mississauga, Ont. in hospital for treatment of terminal cancer, on the LIFE STYLES page of the Victoria Times. (11/3/80). And destitute grandmothers contributing \$5.00 or \$10.00 to Terry's cancer fund, admitting they can't afford it (pet food for the rest of the week?) while other people buy an apartment block for a birthday present for their spouse.

And Terry being favorably compared with heroes of the battlefield, (professional legal killers). And inmates of Matsqui Prison starting a collection for the fund. (This society has no way of coping with those who violate its property laws, so it locks them up. This is considered to be correct and moral by both the workers behind the bars and those outside). However, their drive for funds was temporarily halted when its organizer escaped.

This odd attitude includes the normality of the Toronto branch of MacDonald's "health food" Restaurants substituting its usual March-of-Dimes Day for disabled adults with the Terry Fox Day. The manager of March-of-Dimes Day was "flabbergasted." Naturally there are nearly as many charities as there are social problems, and many of them are in competition for the dimes and nickels of the working class, and any larger tokens that may fall from the bountiful tables of those who own and rule.

Not to be overlooked were the adoring crowds and alms at Terry's Toronto stop. Many of those 9 to 5'ers admired Terry simply because his marathon of hope gave his life some meaning. They were stimulated by meeting one of the rare individuals who appear to be or are actually doing something constructive, positive; who have a goal. Their attitude is that no alternative social structure exists that would free everybody to be somebody. That the working majority is condemned to anonymity in perpetuity.

continued on page 10

The brave and determined youth with the artificial leg, hobbling mile after mile from the east to the west coast to raise a \$ million for cancer research, in one respect was grotesque. As grotesque as the context of a social system that puts commerce ahead of human well being. Most of today's examples of this dreaded disease stemmed from the environment, which is inescapable for the majority of people.

"Cancer," Dr. Ronald Glasser asserts in *The Greatest Battle*, "is today's plague, killing us and our children, our relatives and our friends, the way cholera, diphtheria and smallpox once did. It is virtually epidemic." But unlike the great epidemics of the past, which struck in a rapid fire, chain reaction with victim infecting victim, cancer is a private dying, slow and incommunicable. Its roots reach far back into its victim's life history.

"The cancers we are seeing today did not begin yesterday or the day before, but twenty, thirty and even forty years ago. Scientists now agree that most adult malignancies have their beginning in childhood, adolescence and early life, some even before birth." Tomorrow's victims are marked already. However vigorous they appear, the small assassin is even now lurking within, waiting inexorably like a tiny time bomb planted amidst the healthy normal cells of brain, or lungs or liver.

The vast majority of cancers are initiated by "carcinogenic" chemicals we ingest in the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe. "Carcinogens," Glasser explains, "are cellular poisons. Taken in large amounts they so widely disrupt or destroy intracellular

RACISM

WATTS REVISITED

An article in the Toronto Globe & Mail of August 12 mentioned that 15 years had passed since the riots in the ghetto of Watts, Los Angeles and listed the various steps which had been taken to improve living conditions in Watts since then.

To refresh our readers memory, it was on August 11, 1965 that Watts exploded into six days of racial violence, burning, looting and killing. 34 people, mostly blacks were shot and killed by National Guard troops and police. 1000 people were injured and hundreds of buildings destroyed or badly damaged.

In the aftermath of the shock of the riots (which began on Souccess Street) politicians, businessmen and dogooders acted to try and curb the bitterness in Watts. Hundreds of millions of dollars in federal, state and city aid and grants from the Ford Foundation and other sources have been spent on the problems. Medical care has improved with the building of The Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital, costing \$50 million a year to run. The employment outlook seems to have improved because of minority preference hiring programs in government and business. Some small improvements have been made in the quality of schools and housing.

These improvements though of some benefit to some residents of Watts are in the main part like attempting a major operation by the use of aspirin and band-aids. This is evidenced by the continuing problems and the aggravated degree of them in Watts.

20 percent of the residents are unemployed (40 percent among young males). Much of the housing is in need of repair and violent crime has risen to the extent that few nights go by without at least one murder. To quote one man who has lived in Watts 35 years, "It's a worse novel now than it was in 1965: drugs, crime, too much alcohol, anything you can name, children born here don't stand a chance."

One of the few businesses that does thrive in Watts is the installation of security bars around windows, made necessary by the tremendous rise in the amount of burglaries. However, the most thriving industry is the clandestine manufacture of the drug P.C.P. or phencyclidine.

Police say the use of the drug tends to make users violent. This they say has resulted in officers shooting some users, which in turn has resulted in mounting criticism of the police. "The cops treat us like they're some kind of army in a country they've conquered," said one black youth, "they come by in their cars and yell nigger and rough you up if you do move when they tell you to." One patrolman admitted some officers are prejudiced, but that their attitudes are conditioned by fear for their own safety: "What you've got is a state of mutual fear on both sides."

Though racial tension has definitely increased, as much of it is directed towards illegal aliens from Mexico and Central America, as it is to white Americans. Many blacks feel that Hispanic immigrants are a threat to them in the struggle to get jobs and housing (let alone decent housing). Meanwhile economically successful blacks have moved out as soon as they could afford to live elsewhere.

Unemployment, the housing situation — in a word, poverty — and racialism are all related social phenomena. They have their roots in Capitalism and cannot be eradicated without the abolition of Capitalism, regardless of anything well meaning reformers, or vote conscious politicians do to try.

Basically the immigration problems, (legal or illegal, Hispanic or otherwise,) the problems colored workers face, racism and poverty, though they affect the working class are Capitalisms problems. The common denominator of all these problems (as well as war, pollution, famine, starvation, the destruction of food which cannot be sold for a profit, crime, etc., etc.) is the non-ownership by the majority of the means of production. Poverty in the means of consumption — cheap housing, poor or no education flows from this. Workers



Letter to the Press The Klu Klux Klan

Only one race

With reference to article regarding Klu Klux Klan (Times, March 22):

There is only one human race on this planet. The various shades of skin, hair, eyes, nose sizes and shapes, lips — thin or thick — are trivial and do not constitute a racial or separate species category. The fact that we can all mix and bear fertile offspring with no hybrid, further attests to this scientific one-race concept.

Cultural, religious and economic differences are in the main more obvious and conflicting than any physical human attributes as in East-West, Moslem versus Christian, Capitalist versus wage-slave.

There are greater physical differences within each so-called racial category of whom none has a monopoly i.e. fat, thin, tall, short, light-boned, heavy-boned, etc. The Klan spokesman seems to recognize the economic basis as being the cause of increasing racial tensions, yet prefers to opportunistically capitalize on the effects rather than attack the real culprit — economic disparity and insecurity fostered by the capitalist system.

Until people the world over recognize the problem and face it squarely as members of the Socialist Party of Canada and its world affiliates do, seeking to establish a better alternative to the present exploitive capitalist system of present society, the ugly head of racism will continue to present itself periodically and in varying degrees. — William R. Johnson.

THE PROBLEM OF RACISM
A Socialist Analysis
An in depth study
by the
Socialist Party of
Great Britain
\$1.00

because of their lack of understanding of the forces at work in society and fellow workers who have superficial differences, like skin pigmentation, and blame them for their problems.

In a Socialist society the tools of production will be held in common by all mankind, regardless of race, color or sex. Life will be full and secure for everybody and the problems mentioned in the article will have vanished because the economic conditions which caused them will have been abolished.

To those who say they abhor crime and racism, we can only iterate, study the case for Socialism, and then work for its speedy establishment.

Rex R. R. R.

SCAPE GOATS

It was an informal gathering, to mark two birthdays. One had survived to 60 chronological years. The other to 45. The racist stories began.

"Did you hear the latest, about the Newfie boat people? They started landing in Viet Nam a week ago." Har, har, har.

Or the super smooth bullet train, that suddenly lurched wildly, sending passengers and food to the floor in the dining car. "What happened," they shouted. Reluctantly the attendant admitted, "well, there was a 'Pak' up ahead, but he took off through the woods, . . . but we got him." There was another about black people. And so on.

These stones that malign minorities help to ease the frustrations and alienation of the whites. Perhaps supply a temporary feeling of identity, of worthiness.

Later a member of the group tells the others about an acquaintance who leaves a party at his house at 6:00 A.M. because he doesn't have to go to work until 12:00 noon, while the host must get on his treadmill at 7:00. Not fair. He has non-terminal cancer and a lung problem that requires that he not smoke. But he smokes. (Gotta get something out of life). Seems to be prematurely aged. "Hell, I'm doing alright," he says as he whistles in the dark. Another complains that with his sporadic employment of spacing small trees for conservation purposes, his boss tells him to destroy the Dogwoods, (the blossom of which is the provincial emblem). Saving the Dogwoods would decimate the profits.

So it goes. Workers who begin their servile lives taking orders, appearing at stipulated times in school, donate their best years to the profits of an owning class, with disastrous results to their self image. Not knowing the cause of their condition, they vent their usually suppressed rage on any visible minority, and otherwise hooze and party, or "have a good time." Trying to balance the poverty and drudgery of wage-slavery.

In the classless society of Socialism, humans will be free and equal citizens, having identity, purpose. Each will be recognized, accepted for his/her contribution of creative, interesting, socially responsible production. The degradation and frustration of capitalism will go. And so will the byproduct of racism.



"Workers of the World,
Unite!"

LETTERS

No Blue Print

ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM FOR SOCIALISM

I talk to people about the Party and give them your papers, to read, but they want to know what the Party's program is on administration. I cannot tell them. You don't seem to have a program, to administer distribution, etc., and who is going to do it, who is going to decide?

F. Worrell, Vancouver

Reply—

It is possible that some non-coercive, purely technical functions of discarded governments will be adapted to the requirements of Socialist society on a local or regional scale. Likewise on the world scale, some technical functions of the U.N. possibly could be used. Such as: the International Telecommunications Union, The Universal Postal Union, International Civil Aviation Organization, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the World Meteorological Organization. There are others involved with education, health, science, food and agriculture.

If by "program" it is meant a detailed description of the whole administrative structure, then your friend's question is precipitate. Socialist society will not arrive tomorrow afternoon, or at the end of the next federal election. For instance there would be no point in setting up a distribution system for butter, for the part of the global population which now eat butter (or would like to) if, before Socialism arrived, most of them discovered that butter is not a very healthy food and decide to exclude it from their diets.

"Who is going to do it," and decide, often arises upon hearing a mere capsule description of Socialist society being a classless arrangement of voluntary co-operation and free access. They are asked in the context of today's confused support of this class ruled system of leaders and followers. That is, the political representatives of the owning class continually leading the unconscious gratuitous class down the garden path.

Workers are manipulated into focussing attention on how this system is run, or who runs it. If they were aware of their subservient position they wouldn't bother. Government administration of capitalism is where their sus-

picious lie, after repeatedly being stung by successive exchanges of tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee. Part of the painful process of learning the facts.

So it doesn't matter much how this system is being run, or who does it, it can only operate in the interests of the owners of capital, that is, people who make up about 10 percent of the earth's population. In the same way, it won't matter who is administering the next system, Socialism, because it too will only be operable in one way, for the well being of humanity. Today's class division will have been consigned to history. Who the individuals are who do the work of administration will depend on who likes doing it, if they are proficient at it and if they are chosen, elected by mankind. Those decisions will hang on the conditions of the time and be dependent on the free people of Socialist society organizing the necessary productive and distributive processes to suit their convenience.

The material, technological means to produce and distribute enough, and run the free access system exists. The problem at present is hiding the workers entirely of the political bed-time stories they have been fed by their masters.

For background on this question, see — "Picture of Socialist Society," in the last issue.



THE WAY TO SOCIALISM

We advocate the use of Parliament in the course of the socialist revolution. This implies that, at some stage, a majority of MPs will be Socialists. But the existence of a socialist majority in Parliament means that there will be a socialist majority *outside* Parliament, amongst the population in general. It means, in other words, that the immense majority of working people will have come to want and understand Socialism and to reject capitalism and all leaders and would-be leaders. For us it is the existence of *this* majority which is an indispensable condition for the establishment of Socialism.

The parliamentary majority would merely be a *reflection* of this extra-parliamentary majority: in fact the Socialist MPs would be mere messenger boys, simply the mandated and recallable delegates of this majority, not its leaders. They would thus be quite unable—even in the extremely unlikely event of them wanting to—to set themselves up as a new ruling class in place of (or alongside) the capitalist class. Thus we reject the suggestion that the outcome of a Socialist majority using parliament could become a form of State capitalism.

We reject too the suggestion that the capitalist class would be able to launch an anti-socialist insurrection. Quite apart from the argument about whether or not the State machine in a capitalist political democracy is under the control of those who have a majority in Parlia-

ment (we think it is, and would be), the State is not an institution independent of the men and women who compose it (civil servants, police, prison officers, soldiers, sailors, etc.). Today, most of these, including the officers and top civil servants, are members of the working class, people who rely for a living on the sale of their mental and physical energies for a wage or salary.

We have already said that the existence of a socialist majority in Parliament implies the existence of a socialist majority amongst workers generally. Workers in uniform will be equally affected by socialist ideas as the other. If therefore some fanatical capitalist politician or some mad general ordered them to crush the socialist movement, they would simply refuse. Even on the worst of assumptions sufficient members of the armed forces would be sympathetic to Socialism to prevent them being able to be used against Socialism.

Once a majority of workers want and understand Socialism there is nothing, in the end, that can stop them getting it. Their problem will be what to do to establish Socialism as quickly and as painlessly as possible. To do this, we suggest, they should use the means to hand: universal suffrage, elections and Parliament. In any case, barricades and street battles and all the mythology of the French and Russian revolutions combined are quite impracticable as well as dangerous and unnecessary.

AMENDMENT

The second paragraph of the article, *Indian Summers of Industrial Expansion And Commercial Profit* in the last issue, could have been misinterpreted to mean that during the post World War II boom years, near or full employment existed because governments were committed to that goal, or to mean that governments actually desire full employment. The author has supplied the following amendment: For 30 of those post war years, from 1945-1975, government of industrialized nations and opposition

alike professed themselves earnestly dedicated to the worthwhile ideal of full employment."

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The
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The Official Organ of the Socialist Party of Canada

46 Years Ago

LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP

The existence of leaders and the ideas connected with "leading" and "following," are part and parcel of class society. Therefore, it is not surprising that the great majority of workers—and capitalists as well—hang fast to the notion that no organized move, great or small, can be made without the direction of leaders. Neither is it surprising to find this fancy persisting throughout the ranks of groups claiming to represent the best interests of the working class, such as the various communist parties, the Socialist party of America, etc. These groups claim that the great need of the day is for an honest and intelligent leadership to "direct the way." The masses (they claim) are ignorant and cannot fathom the social and economic factors underlying their problems; therefore it is essential for an intelligent minority of tried and trusted individuals who have had a special training, to apply their more enlightened minds to such social questions, and explain to the mass of the workers how they should act as conditions arise.

Needless to say this philosophy of Leadership has a very bad influence on the workers. It habituates them to be mentally lazy, as they continue to delegate their problems to others for solution. Instead of holding to faith, that blind belief, in others, the workers should and must learn to have confidence in their own numbers; reliance on their own ability; and belief in their own knowledge of social and economic affairs. With a recognition of their own class interest, the workers will need no leaders, and the leader will cease to exist for want of followers.

Fred Evans
February 1934

A NOS LECTEURS FRANCOPHONES
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Vol. 15, No. 3



"A recent survey reveals that a quarter of this country is covered by forest. The other three-quarters is covered by mortgages." (Earl Wilson, Victoria, Times, 10/9/63).

During the decades of the post war boom, clear title to a home by most wage or salary workers in North America was more of a dream than reality. During this period of nearly fully employment, the insecurity of the wages system made the light at the end of the dark tunnel of mortgage payments invisible for most, during a life time.

But borrowing money at bearable interest rates, with instalment payments that could be squeezed out of paychecks, perhaps until the children came along, or until some catastrophe associated with the struggle at the bottom of the pyramid brought foreclosure, kept the myth alive.

Now, for most young wage workers starting out, even the myth is dying. With a down payment (in Victoria, B.C.) of \$30,000 on a \$150,000 2 bedroom stucco box, with interest payments alone at 13 per cent or \$830.00 a month, the object of contracting to get a mortgage company monkey off their back in 30 to 40 years has been abandoned.

The latest protest movement to bloom and die was the one against the last upward fluctuation in interest rates, putting new renewable house mortgages at 15 per cent. A quarter of a million families, in some cases have to pay of 50 per cent more than when their loans began 5 years previously. Some people

discovered they owed more after the first 5 years than when they started making payments. Back in 1977, "one couple found that their indebtedness within seven years would be \$4,000 more than what they 'paid' for their house to begin with." (Vancouver Sun article, 30/10/77, on AHOP foreclosures). Further, "hundreds are simply walking away from their homes." "Heartbreak Treadmill"

Contributing to the myth was the usual double-speak of the media, painting a picture of false prosperity. There are purportedly 3.8 million home owners in Canada according to Maclean's (24/3/80). There were more, but some were booted out through inability to pay up on time, because of soaring interest rates. Maclean's equated the buying of a home through the Assisted Home Ownership Plan with buying an ice cream cone on a Sunday afternoon's drive. Ice creams and dreams can be escapism, especially on Sundays, when some workers are allowed to catch their breath. *Weekend Magazine*, 17/3/79, was cautious by comparison when it said: "... the percentage of urban adults who say they live in their own homes (63 per cent) is already smaller than the percentage who report that their parents own or owned a home (77 per cent).

The percentage of the people who have to market their lives for a wage or salary who actually possess clear title to a home is either a closely guarded government secret or it is simply a statistic that has never been ascertained. The object of the brain manipulators has been to make payments on a car, washing machine or a house or a par with owning same.

An ad put out by the Insured Savings and Loan Associations in U.S. *News And World Report*, (25/5/63) said that "two out of five U.S. homes are owned debt-free" (Another example of the double talk: two kinds of ownership, one you do own, in the other you don't). In the case of this ad, one half or more of the U.S. families who resided in debt-free homes could be members of the owning class, leaving perhaps ten per cent belonging to members of the owning class. Logic and available statistics as

well as the function of wage earners to produce profits, precludes the absence of home ownership for the majority of them. Wages or salaries, which equal the cost of producing and reproducing their productive energies, do not allow for such a luxury or security as home ownership.

The media has grudgingly been compelled to admit on recent occasion that the high wage part of the working class are also poor. A recent *Times-Colonist* piece told of the "New Category of Urban Poor," in Vancouver. And a lot of the workers pinched by the last surge of interest rates were of the so-called middle class, doctors, architects and lawyers, as well as "lowly" truck drivers and garbage collectors in Ontario and elsewhere. As members of the now dead protest movement, they were urged to shout, "We're as mad as hell and we won't take it any more." They said they could tolerate \$2.00 a gallon for gasoline for \$20.00 for a case of beer, but "their" homes were sacred.

Mortgagees are not much more than loan co. managers for the house they think they are buying. They maintain the grounds, replace light bulbs, etc. for the shareholders of the mortgage Co. who are in effect landlords, collecting rent (interest). With the average home of a few years ago costing \$56,000 and with 9 per cent interest after the down payment, for 25 years, our brave dreamer, if he succeeded in running the aguntlet, winds up paying \$160,000. Meaning a \$124,000 handout to the parasitic finance capitalist.

It is the same south of the border. "New homeowners these days often feel that getting a mortgage is akin to getting mugged." (*Time*, 27/10/80). But reality is even forcing *Time* to level a bit with its readers on this subject by using the expression "a chance to buy." Second mortgages used to be high risk entities, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, (24/10/80) called them a good way to beat potato prices. In reference to housing they are now disguised as "home equity loans," 11 1/2 to 17 per cent a year for 15 years, along with pain reducing Graduated Payment Mortgages, Variable or Renegotiable Rate Mortgages, Owner Financing, and Shared Appreciation.

ation Mortgages, they come under the soothing blanket title of "Creative Home Financing" in *Time*.

Time also noted that "Dream houses are still being built, but they often carry price tags that drive away all but the super rich. In Washington D.C. about 115 new houses will be constructed on the 27-acre estate once owned by Nelson Rockefeller." But not quite in the Rockefeller style. They will be 30 feet apart. When referring to working class "home owners," the *Chronicle* reached a degree of candor not observed yet in Canadian dailies by saying:

"Own them" is a euphemism meaning the "owners" live in a house that is actually owned by a savings and loan association or a bank that holds a 30 year mortgage on the property.

Stucco-fronted, three-bedroom one-bath houses in the mid Sunset district of San Francisco, sold in the '40's for \$6,000 are now selling for upwards of \$140,000. The term "Horror Stories" was used, and the conclusion can be reached that in the U.S., the teaser of home ownership that tempted the parents and grandparents of young people today is denied them.

Inflation

The interest rates announced by central banks reflect the conditions of the money market. They also reflect the degree of inflation. Finance companies would never tolerate no real interest return on their loans because of devalued currency. And inflation is caused by governments issuing more inconvertible currency than is required for the normal circulation of commodities. Inconvertible means that the paper tokens are not directly convertible to

gold. Gold is the real money. If its tokens multiply but gold doesn't, then prices measured by gold but represented by devalued currency, must rise.

Governments do this in imagining that it will increase purchasing power and stimulate the economy. As the annual report of the Bank of Canada once said it has "... pursued an expansionist monetary policy throughout 1972 to help stimulate a demand for goods and services thereby generating more jobs." From the years 1954 to 1970, Canadian governments increased the amount of currency in circulation by 3.15 times the increase in the Gross National Product. Governments also in effect, print and issue an oversupply of currency to pay off loans. Economist Gordon MacEachern, president of the Agricultural Economics Research Council of Canada said that the U.S. and Canadian governments devalued their dollars by 30 per cent compared to other currencies. (*Country Guide*, Oct. '73). According to *Time Magazine* in 1974 the Bank of Canada increased the "money supply" at a rate of 18 to 20 per cent. In Germany and Switzerland, where less currency devaluation has been exacted by governments, prices are lower, and 'bank rates' are 6 per cent and 4½ per cent. (*Socialist Standard*, Jan./80). But workers are as badly off in Switzerland as workers were here when rates were 5%, because money wages are and were lower.

The politicians who posture inflation being as uncontrollable or unpredictable as the weather but who simultaneously pose as accurate weather forecasters by promising a further inflation rate of 10 per cent annually are

being contradictory. If their antics were covered by the criminal code they would have been in jail years ago.

But they are the representatives of the top class in a divided society. As the national spark plug of the now defunct protest wave, Viv Woolford of Mississauga said: "... before an election, politicians come to you on hands and knees and after the election they don't pay any attention to what's happening to you." The worker's political consent is required for the system's continuation. Capitalism is not geared to simultaneously exploit the wage workers and be kind to them. And half the time the uncontrollable forces of the system, push governments around, despite what politicians want, even if they wanted to serve the victims. The Victoria representative of the movement said, "The majority is in trouble." Actually the majority has been in trouble since the wages, prices profit system evolved out of feudalism 150 - 200 years ago. Now that the system has outlived its usefulness, it is up to that majority to replace it with the next system, which will function for all.

JGJ

TERRY FOX

During those long days of Terry's big run, the mines and the mills, the vehicles and the implements expanded the spewing of poisons into the air and onto the land and water, in the interest of keeping production costs down, in keeping the competitive position on the market strong, and profits healthy.

The attitudes of the unfortunate majority tolerate the afflicted Terry being awarded the Order of Canada — the medal being presented by a Governor-General who lives on an estate that 80 per cent of Canadians could not afford. And if cancer is partly psychosomatic in origin, how's that for ignoring a basic contributor to the disease? This Governor-General was formerly the NDP premier of Manitoba. The NDP is "the working man's friend."

The fortuitous sequence of events that boosted donations to the \$12 million mark caused some head scratching among Cancer Society officials. The annual contribution load heretofore had been confined to rigid channels. This extra \$12 M. of course would not mean a breakout into new exploitations



Pie in the Sky Dept.

continued on page 12

Polish Workers Strike Against The "Workers'" State

Private ownership of the means of life is an anachronism but the state form is aggravating when it is misrepresented as Socialism/Communism. The original Bolshevik dictators paralayed absolute control over the worker - peasant majority by pretending to be the voice of those they used. If Lenin's and Stalin's absolute government was supposed to protect Russian workers from wicked private capitalists on the outside, why did they share in the huge profits from Henry Ford's and other U.S. entrepreneurs' investments in Russia during the days of absolute exploitation? Same applies to the peasants who would not co-operate in the forced collectivization of farms. The Kulaks did a poor job of controlling "their" government from inside forced labor camps or from 6 feet under.

This blue print applied to all of Russia's satellites (as they were acquired,) wherever possible. With Poland being a geographical kingpin of the Russian empire, it could not escape the Bolshevik method of running what has turned out to be state capitalism.

While reporting the dramatic events in Poland, the Western press propagandists stuck to the ridiculous title of "Communism" and thus got themselves tangled in contradictions while trying to show contradictions in Kremlin political dogma. "Such as: "How can workers act against themselves, when striking against the workers' state?" Plus a cartoon of Brezhnev referring to Marx as a subversive nut. Poland has rich and poor classes, bosses and workers, and the usual religious institutions co-operating with the state to protect property in the means of life. In Poland's case the Catholic Church pretends that the government is Marxist and atheistic but atheism has nothing to do with Socialism.

The New Ruling Class In Poland

Who the Polish workers walked out on was illustrated by one of the ordinary strikers, Marion Zaczik, interviewed by a New York Times reporter. Zaczik said:

"It's for free trade unions. This is the idea: the worker can go out and work for his right (to defend wages) and do it while his is protected from the red bourgeoisie."

Zaczik is probably one of many Polish wage-workers who realize that their country is composed of a type of capitalism, as he continued: "... it's the rich getting richer," and "there's got to be some kind of control over those who are ruling - there's a bunch of people who are surrounded by the police and the military and they do whatever they want." (Victoria Times, 20/9/80). A good description of any class divided society.

When the political hierarchies and governmental bureaucracies of one-party police states and their bangers-on form the privileged class, it is perhaps more difficult to achieve anonymity than is the case in Western "mixed economies" where the ruling elite exist predominantly as invisible bond and shareholders, far behind the veil of state administrative action. One of the mistakes of the Polish rulers may have been in unknowingly flaunting their affluence, while trying to reduce wages that were very low to start with, at the same time pretending to be the benefactors of those they lived off.

Maciej Szezipanski allegedly owned a 5 bedroom luxury villa in the country, a sauna, pool, and a theatre with a video tape library of 900 porno films. And a lavishly appointed bed valued at \$12,000. For lengthier relaxation, Polish TV was said to possess "... a private isle in the Mediterranean plus a retreat in Kenya's safari country." (Times Colonist, 5/9/80). Eastern state capitalist countries have legal and hidden ways



for their rulers to dip their fingers into the common pool of profits. This TV czar probably didn't have to resort to unlawful methods. However, as in all countries, the workers are told, "this is your country," but the conditions of existence tell the workers, "none of it belongs to you." And the inevitable struggle arises between those who own but do not produce and those who produce but do not own, over division of the wealth produced by the propertiless.

Downward Pressure On Wages

What triggered the latest strikes was the government boss's attempt to lower real wages by raising the price of meat. The last time this was attempted, in 1976, the price increase had to be rescinded within 24 hours because of the wave of strikes. The workers by this time had learned that promises from their supreme state bosses of money wage increases were dubious without independent unions to make the promises reality.

Poland exports its top quality meats for hard currency. Naturally it exports a profit. It imports cheap, low quality meat for working class consumption. In addition to this, Polish 9 to 5ers have tasted Western style exploitation. This is by way of their rulers being in debt to Western banks to the extent of \$19.5 billion at the end of 1979 and \$7.15 billion was being paid out in interest (profit) on foreign loans. (Sunday Colonist, 24/8/80).

The managers of this huge state monopoly was its former company



POLISH WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST THE "WORKERS" STATE

unions have apparently not conducted their business well. Poland has an adverse balance of payments with other countries. Some factories were over-loaded with hands, bringing up the charge of featherbedding, but a good way to "prove" that unemployment doesn't happen in "Communist" countries. Large loans were also received from Russia, (plus another major loan since the recent strikes took place) helping to show the universal nature of world capitalism. Kossygin's resignation in Moscow upset the U.S. stock exchange. Poland is an example of U.S. private and USSR state capital snuggling down to mutually suck the blood of workers of another country.

Patriotism and Religion

While the Polish workers have achieved a historical landmark, they are still controlled by capitalist ideology, which is basically the same in all regimes. Their strikes could have been more effective if they were immune to such upper class blandishments as "Everything should be done for the good of the fatherland." As the political spokesmen for the employing class in western countries have so often done to quell strikes, the Polish workers were cautioned not to bankrupt "our" nation and appeals for national unity were made. Coupled with threats of Russian intervention.

The new head manager of the Polish business conglomerate, Stanislas Kania, praised efforts by the Roman Catholic Church to end the 2 month

labor crisis. The R.C. Church would regard strikes as a sin in circumstances where it is in complete alliance with the local predatory class. But in the case of Poland it seems that this pillar of privilege had not yet signed a formal contract with its political counterpart at the time of the wage upheaval. The latest news bulletin however, says that the Polish primate and the "Communist"



PROPERTY.
WE STAND
ON GUARD
FOR THEE.

Party chief have agreed on "constructive co-operation between Church and state." (Times Colonist, 23/9/80).

Reforms and Class Struggle

The capitalist mode of production requires periodic reforms to function normally, but the executives of Eastern state enterprises do not seem to be always aware of this. Some bureaucrats and Party functionaries who were in a minority position in Poland had urged some overdue reforms to improve the process of exploitation and keep the state balance sheets in the blue.

Western experts in superintending registration of the new and independent unions. Furtive trips have been made to Moscow, and who knows, the empire

class domination have also observed the necessity of superficial changes in the Polish structure. Dan Morgan of the Washington Post was one of these. Gwyne Dyer from London, suggested some civil rights and "power sharing" between the Church, government, intellectuals (better brainwashers) and the workers. "... by reconciling the population and the regime, could make Poland's huge economic problems less intractable." Referees in other parts of the Soviet empire seem to hang on to the past until the breaking point. A recent eyebrow raiser though was a walkout in Estonia, another vassal, in which visiting Russian officials urged local whip crackers to accede to the strikers' requests. The idea is to milk workers without too much objection from them.

Since the factory wheels resumed their relentless turning in Poland, the authoritarians, have done everything possible to delay and weaken the legal might still have at trick or two up its sleeve.

But a giant stride has been taken. There is evidence that workers cannot be kept in political and social ignorance indefinitely. It is insane that the majority of the world's population must concentrate most of their lives on acquiring a few material items they consider necessary to carry on survival, when the productive means for full, creative lives has been at hand for 70 years. The workers need to acquire full knowledge of the social structure that burdens them before they can take the political action enabling them to step into universal freedom.



CHARITY CANCER RESEARCH

Scientists must be paid wages, construction firms who build labs must be recompensed, and research materials exchanged for tokens of gold. The sacred profit system must be preserved.

The sycophants and propagandists swarmed in during the telethon, to bolster the false front of nationalism which hides the financial interest at the top. Terry had been instrumental in giving a push to the half blind search for a cure to the spectre, without harming, even helping the status quo; the culprit in the case. He had made a "contribution to Canada." Yes, except for the human concern for others, the exercise was grotesque.

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Object and each Principle.

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SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

OBJECT The establishment of a system of
society based upon the common ownership and
democratic control of the means and instruments
for producing and distributing wealth by and in
the interest of the whole community.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

The Socialist Party of Canada holds:

1. That Society as at present constituted is based
upon the ownership of the means of living
(land, factories, railways, etc.) by the
capitalist or master class, and the consequent
enslavement of the working class by whose labour
alone wealth is produced.

2. That in society, therefore, there is an
antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a
class struggle, between those who possess but do
not produce, and those who produce but do not
possess.

3. That this antagonism can be abolished only
by the emancipation of the working class from the
domination of the master class, by the conversion
into the common property of society of the means
of production and distribution, and their
democratic control by the whole people.

4. That as in the order of social evolution the
working class is the last class to achieve its
freedom, the emancipation of the working class
will involve the emancipation of all mankind
without distinction of race or sex.

5. That this emancipation must be the work of
the working class itself.

6. That as the machinery of government,
including the armed forces of the nation, exists
only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist
class of the wealth taken from the workers, the
working class must organize collectively and
politically for the conquest of the powers of
government, national and local, in order that this
machinery, including these forces, may be
converted from an instrument of oppression into
the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of
privilege, aristocracy and plutocracy.

7. That as all political parties are but the
expression of class interests, and as the interest of
the working class is diametrically opposed to the
interest of all sections of the master class, the party
seeking working-class emancipation must be
hostile to every other party.

8. The Socialist Party of Canada therefore,
enters the field of political action determined to
wage war against all other political parties,
whether alleged labour or avowedly capitalist,
and call upon the members of the working class to
muster under their banner to the end that a speech
terminations may be wrought in the system which
deprives them of the fruits of their labour, and
that poverty may be given place to comfort,
privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

Anyone agreeing with the above princi-
ples and wishing to join should write for
application form and questionnaire to
headquarters in Victoria.

NOTES FROM ENGLAND

STARVATION

SOCIALISTS maintain that capitalism is a commodity producing system. Goods are produced for sale with a view to profit. This is accepted by the overwhelming majority of people as being natural, sensible and the only way society can operate. They also accept that working for a wage or salary is the only way we can live.

WHEN the commodity is food, whilst accepting the profit motive, they continually belabour against rising prices. They also get a twinge of conscience when confronted with stories and TV pictures of starving people.

SOME really gruesome pictures flashed on our screens. In August of starving people in Uganda. Small children, more bones than flesh were being fed by a charitable organisation and the U.N. One helper said: "It was a case of picking out the really thin ones to have 3 meals a day." Not, we presume, to fatten them up but merely to keep them alive. They were pictures that brought a lump to your throat and spoiled this stupid damn system for what it is.

CONTRAST this scene, with a news item in *The Weekend Sun*, Vancouver, 26th April, 1980. The article centred around the farmers in B.C. who, due to certain economic trends, were going through a rough patch. Linda Coady, a research administrator with the B.C. Fed. of Agriculture, stated that much of the highly fertile land is a valuable resource, but the farmer doesn't know what to grow on it to give him an economic return. "If you are a farmer sitting on a piece of property worth millions and growing potatoes on it that you can't sell, then that's not too happy a situation." That, to put it mildly, is the understatement of the year.

BUT it does emphasise an important point in the Socialist analysis. Potatoes, in this system, are not grown for what might seem to be a sensible reason — for

people to eat. They are a commodity and even in a world beset with so much starvation, the economic law of profit takes priority. Surely it is not beyond the ken of man to organise the world on a basis of producing to meet peoples needs. It's just that at the moment, he lacks the imagination and knowledge to set the wheels in motion. The voice of the Socialist Party of Canada, and its Companion Parties, alone, held out the possibilities of a future based on the utilisation of the earth and its potential for the common good.

HOW CHARITIES WASTE THEIR MONEY

ON a similar theme, the British Press carries adverts from various charities appealing for funds. 'War on Want,' one of the foremost is currently appealing for money to support projects that examine the causes of poverty and unemployment (out emphasis). Their research so far has led them to alternatives such as co-operatives that create jobs, and community development. They will of course, research everything except the most important issue: that poverty and unemployment is a logical consequence of capitalism. Incidentally, their idea of poverty is also one that we do not accept: a situation 'enjoyed' by those condemned to live on or under a certain statistical economic line. Poverty goes deeper than that. The fact that workers throughout the world are divorced from and have no interest in the means of production and distribution, is a reflection of their poverty.

UNEMPLOYMENT is also a feature of this system that War on Want will never eradicate. It is rooted in the concept of production for profit; no profit and jobs are cut back, as in Great Britain at the present time, where unemployment tops the 2 million mark. Charitable organisations are fighting a losing battle. You don't solve fundamental problems by tickling the surface; you get down to the foundations. We could save War on Want a lot of money, if they approached The Socialist Party of Great Britain for the results of our research into the cause of poverty and unemployment.

The Gang of 4 are dead - Long Live The Gang of 3

THE Gang of Four in China, now relegated to obscurity (and even Chairman Mao is now taking some sticks), have been replaced by a Gang of Three in England. Not that these 3 are villains or rogues. They are respectable members of the British Labour Party and in the government of Mr. Callaghan held Cabinet posts. Mrs. Shirley Williams, Sec. of State for Education, William Rogers, Minister for Transport and David Owen, Foreign Secretary.

THEY are critical of recent trends in the Labour Party and stated their views in a long letter to *The Guardian*, Aug. 1, 1980. They reaffirm their claim to be 'international socialists' and then go on to voice their support for a mixed economy — private enterprise with a dash of Nationalisation. (There's a fundamental contradiction here. How about writing to the Editor with your views).

THEY also contend that if the Labour Party is to win the next election, it is vital that the party rejects the class war. They might just as well say that they reject the law of gravity because they don't like it. They do not realise that the class war is a symptom of a society based on minority ownership of the means of wealth production, and cannot be rejected.

THEIR views on this issue keep good company. Mrs. Thatcher, Prime Minister, said of a previous Tory Prime Minister — Harold Macmillan: "That he had almost got rid of it. Had he won another Election, it would have gone altogether." (*Observer*, 25 February 1979). If the Iron Lady really believes this rubbish, she must be regretting the fact that Macmillan did not win another election, and so abolish class war. As head of a government confronted with a growing economic crisis, she will have to deal with workers as they participate in the class struggle on the industrial field. The industrial struggle by workers is limited: it is a struggle these days, not to increase their standard of living, but to try and stop it from falling.

WHEN workers realise the need for political struggle to establish Socialism, and take the necessary action, then the Gang of Three will join the Four and Macmillan's object in life will have been achieved. Only Socialism, with its abolition of classes can abolish the class struggle and class war.